



## ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

### **Project Success through Efficient Processes: Wallops Flight Facility**

In December 2006, the Air Force's TacSat-2 spacecraft was carried into orbit aboard a Minotaur 1 rocket, the first ground-based orbital launch from Wallops Flight Facility in more than a decade. Four months later, Wallops—home of NASA's only launch range—successfully staged a second Minotaur launch. The turnaround time to get TacSat-2 into space was less than six months—a fraction of the lifecycle for most spaceflight missions. The range's quick response to the mission's launch requirements reflects the agile, low-cost, rapid-integration approach at Wallops and reveals a project-management process characterized by the same qualities: nimbleness, responsiveness, teamwork.

How did Wallops launch TacSat-2 so efficiently? How does a launch team work effectively with a client to carry out an operation in a compressed timeframe—efficiently and safely? In a case study that explores these and other issues, Jay Pittman, chief of the Range and Mission Management Office at Wallops, looks back at the fast track of the TacSat-2 launch as Wallops envisions its changing role as a unique national resource for low-cost access to space.

**Jay Pittman**  
***Chief, Range and Mission Management Office***  
**Wallops Flight Facility**

Jay Pittman is Chief of the Range and Mission Management Office at Wallops Flight Facility, where he is responsible for the implementation of all launch range functions and directs the Wallops flight-project managers. Mr. Pittman oversaw the range's "return to orbit" with the launches of two Department of Defense satellites, TacSat-2 and NFIRE, in 2006 and 2007. Before his appointment as range chief, in 2002, he served as branch head of the Real Time Systems Software Engineering Branch (RTSEB) at Wallops. In that position he oversaw the data systems upgrades in the Range Control Center and managed the Wallops-led Orbital Tracking Station Automation Project, which improved NASA's ground network stations at Wallops, Alaska, Norway, and Antarctica. As head of the Wallops Advanced Range Technology Initiative (ARTI), he led the design of satellite-based tracking systems for sounding rockets and unmanned aircraft. He also directed the formulation and design-phase efforts for the Wallops Mission Planning Lab and the Autonomous Flight Safety System. A member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a graduate of Virginia Tech, with degrees in computer science and mathematics, Mr. Pittman is married and has three children.

**Edward Rogers, Ph.D.**  
***Chief Knowledge Management Officer***  
**NASA Goddard Space Flight Center**

Dr. Rogers is the Chief Knowledge Management Officer at Goddard Space Flight Center. He received a Ph.D. from Cornell University, his Master's in Business Administration from University of South Carolina and his Bachelor of Science from Ohio State University. His role at Goddard is to assure that the Center functions as a learning organization.



NASA  
Project  
Management  
Challenge  
2008

# PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE 2008

*Fifth Annual NASA Project Management Conference*

## ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Prior to coming to Goddard in 2003, Dr. Rogers taught strategic management and entrepreneurship at Cornell, Duke and the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Dr. Rogers also operated a private consulting practice focused on knowledge workers and intelligent enterprise. His research and publications apply game theory models to human behavior in organizations. He has consulted with a number of organizations on building conceptual transparency and leveraging collective knowledge.